

# FACT SHEET



## 10<sup>th</sup> Street Superfund Site Columbus, Nebraska

May 2002

### UPDATE

The purpose of this fact sheet is to provide an update of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA's) actions at the 10<sup>th</sup> Street Superfund site in Columbus, Nebraska, and to solicit input from the community during this phase of the project. The site is located in the central part of Columbus.

### SELECTED REMEDY

In September 2001, EPA issued an Interim Action Record of Decision (ROD) to address ground water contamination. The remedy in the ROD includes the following components:

- ☞ Removal of contaminated ground water at municipal well W-1;
- ☞ Interception of plume using extraction wells located upgradient of the city's southern municipal well field;
- ☞ Treatment, as appropriate, of contaminated ground water removed from municipal well W-1 and the extraction wells. Discharge of treated ground water to surface water through the city's storm sewer system or to the city's distribution system, or reuse through other options; and
- ☞ Continued operation of the Air Sparging/Soil Vapor Extraction (AS/SVE) treatment system at the One Hour Martinizing (OHM) source area.

The Preliminary Design of the selected remedy has been received from EPA's consultant, and the Nebraska Health & Human Services (NHHSS), Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality (NDEQ) and the EPA are currently evaluating the Preliminary Design prior to developing final design plans and constructing and implementing the remedy. The Preliminary Design includes the proposed location and capacity of the extraction wells and treatment system. Based on input and support from the City, EPA is planning on the groundwater from the extraction wells being treated, as necessary, and placed into the City's water distribution system. Extracted water from municipal well W-1 will likely be treated, if necessary, and discharged to

the storm sewer. Any extracted water that exceeds the capacity of the city's water supply will be discharged to the storm sewer. The design and construction will comply with state and federal water supply requirements.

### **Is the City Water Safe?**

Although contaminants have been found in very low concentrations in a few of the municipal water supply wells in the south well field, the city's water remains safe. Because of contamination concerns of the south well field, much of the city's water comes from the north well field. The recommended actions are necessary to ensure that the south well field can continue to be safely used by the citizens of Columbus, now and in the future. Overall, the city provides water that is safe and within the standards set by the Safe Drinking Water Act.

### **Will the City Water Remain Safe if the city uses the treated water in the city water supply?**

In order for this extracted ground water to be placed into the city's distribution system, the water must meet safe levels established by the Safe Drinking Water Act. The treatment system will likely involve removing the contaminants using air stripping or activated carbon, both of which are proven technologies to treat contaminated ground water and remove contaminants to levels safe for consumption. EPA and the City will work with the NHHSS (the agency responsible for monitoring public water systems) regarding the design and implementation, to assure that the water supply will remain safe for consumption.

### **Additional Information:**

EPA is available to discuss and answer questions regarding the ongoing and planned response actions.

### **Keeping the Public Informed:**

It is EPA's commitment to keep the Columbus community informed about site activities throughout the cleanup process. Some of the communication tools used to convey information to the public include: Fact Sheets, Newspaper bulletins, Public Meetings, and community visits. If you have questions or need additional information, please contact:

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